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The Essays

Read March 12 1829

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Hemorrhage

Presented to the Medical Faculty,

The University of Pennsylvania

for

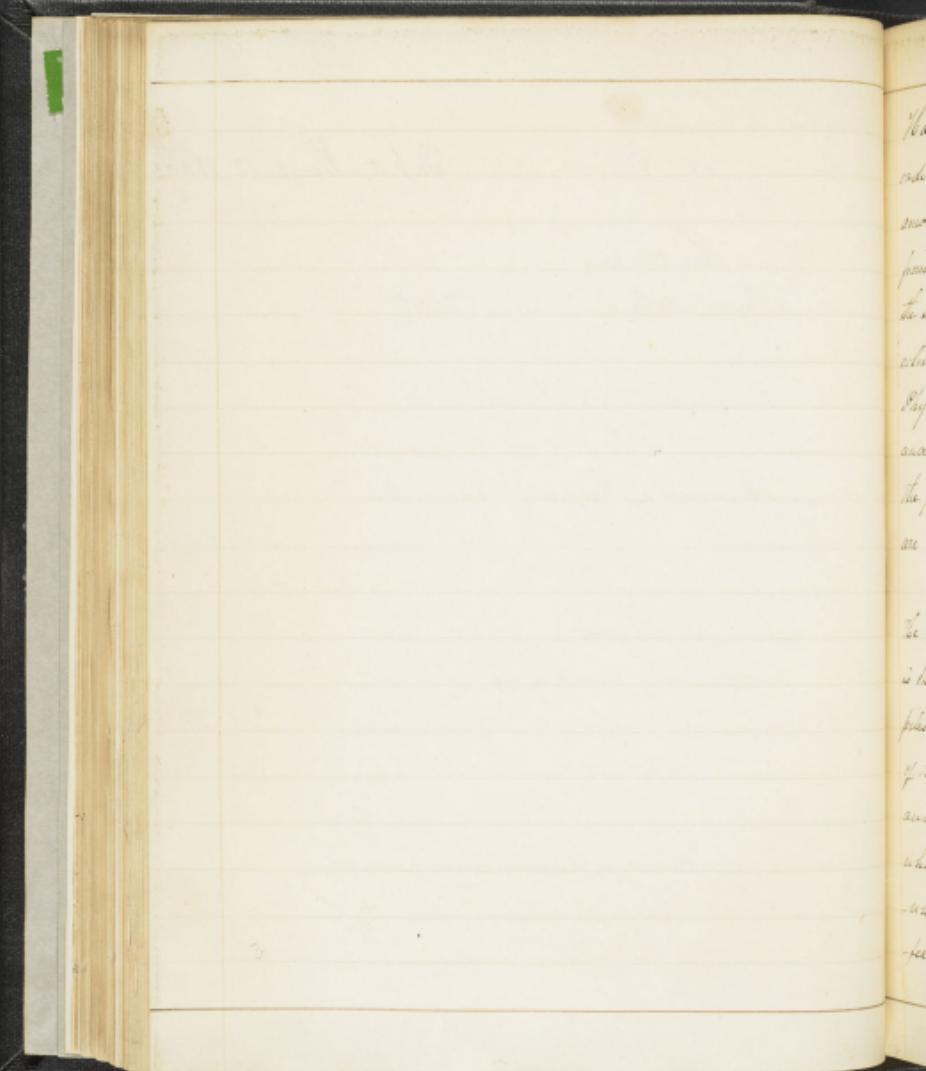
The degree of Doctor of Medicine.

By

Isab. B. Adams

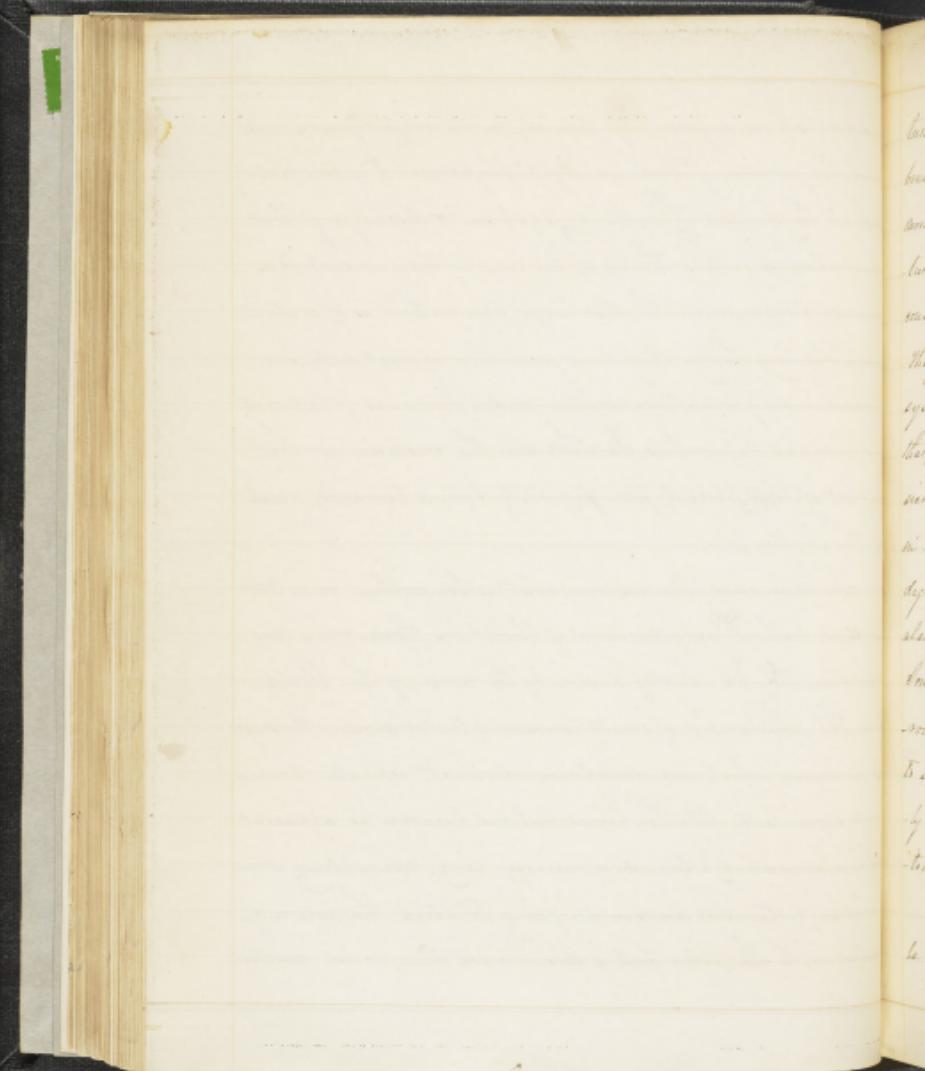
South Carolina

January 1829 —



Hæmorrhoids is a genus of disease, in the class Pyrosis, and
order Pathomiasis of Culicis. By Dr Chapman it is ranked
amongst the diseases of the circulatory system. A discharge of blood
from without or within the anus, has usually been considered as
the same disease, when the discharge from within is of a fluid
always showing thereby that it has come from a great distance.
Physicians designate these varieties under the names of External
and Internal Hæmorrhoids. In either case the conclusion is, that
the flow of blood proceed from previously formed tumours, which
are termed the piles.

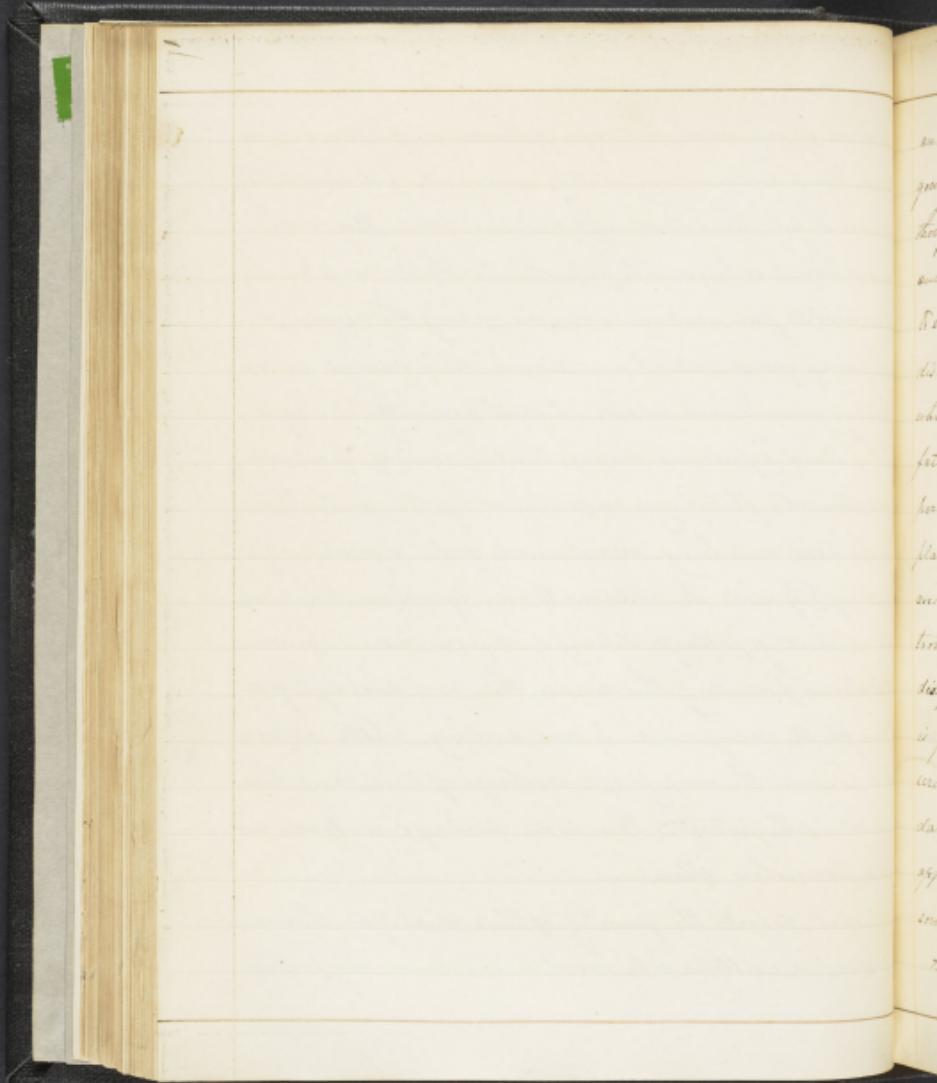
In some cases tumours may exist either within or without
the anus, without any discharge of blood from them; when this
is the case, they are usually known by the name of the blind
piles. The piles consist of small tumours situated about the verge
of the anus, which are sometimes distinct, exquate, round
and prominent. At other times but one tumour is apparent
which consists of a tumid or varicose vein, resembling some
what a pointed anus. On going to stool, the person of
feetit with the piles, feels a severe and sharp pain and



lumous appear, about the verge of the anus, of these tumours
break, great relief is immediately experienced; but should they
remain entire, the patient suffers extreme pain. They some-
times become so large as to press upon the bladder and create
considerable pain and irritation in voiding the urine.

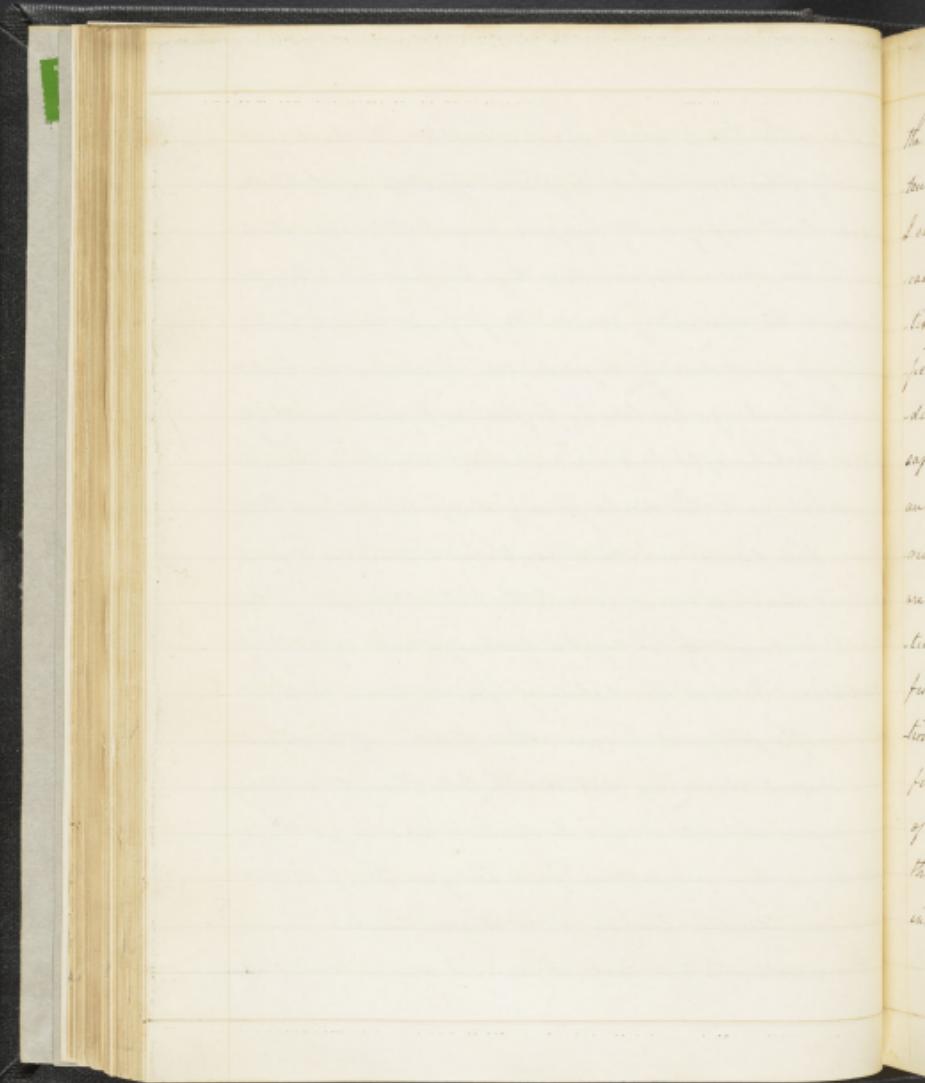
They may appear without any previous arrangement in the
system, from topical causes; but most frequently it happens
that ^{the} patient experiences various disorders, such as heat after
sick stomach, flatulence, and fluxes, together with pains
in the back and loins, accompanied with a greater or less
degree of dysuria. In addition to these symptoms, there exists
also a sense of fulness, itching, and pain around the anus.
Sometimes preceding this disease, there is a discharge of a
seous fluid, accompanied by some swelling, which appears
to supersede the opacity of a discharge of blood, and there-
by relieves the patient. This seous discharge is denomin-
ated *Hemorrhoiditis Alter*.

As it respects the quantity of blood discharged, there can
be specified no stated rule, as it is sometimes very profuse.



and at other times quite inconsiderable. The discharge
generally takes place while the person affected is at stool,
though it not unfrequently happens immediately after stool
and in some rare instances where there has been no attempt
to evacuate the alimentary canal. By frequent and repeated
discharges, great debility is produced. Instances are related
where the discharge has been so profuse as to prove suddenly
fatal. The piles after long continuance sometimes become
periodical and the discharge only at regular periods takes
place. This disease sometimes exists for a number of years
without much inconvenience to the patient (excepting the
trouble produced by the regular discharges) and suddenly
disappears towards the decline of life. In such cases it
is generally followed by some other disease of a more
serious and alarming nature. The piles (though seldom
dangerous) should always be checked as soon as they
appear, as they very seldom fail to give the patient
some considerable trouble and inconvenience.

It is a well attested fact, as far as I am informed no



the subject, that Haemorrhoidal evacuations are sometimes attended with very salutary effects. But as a general rule I conceive it to be fully admitted, that whenever this disease arises from any disorder originating in other functions, not immediately connected with ^{the} rectum, but sufficient to create the piles, as soon as the disease which produces the piles is removed, the physician may then with safety turn his attention to the Haemorrhoidal affection and stop the discharge without the apprehension of any noxious consequences. Occasionally Haemorrhoidal tumours are attended with a very considerable degree of inflammation, which proceeds to suppuration and terminates in fistulous injuries. We are informed by Thomas that dissections of piles show that the tumours consist partly of the fine skin round the anus on the outside and partly of the internal membrane of the gut. In general they are entire, but sometimes have small openings in them through which the blood issues.

The causes which produce the piles are both local

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and general. It is occasioned by habitual coition, debauchery, even venereal or heredita, intemperance and debauchery, the suppression of some long continued excretion and the use of strong astringents. Such obstruction in the liss, preventing the return of blood from the hemorrhoidal vessels through that vessel, is often the cause of the piles. Everything, which, prevents the return of blood from the hemorrhoidal vessels, has a tendency to produce them. Thus pregnant women are very liable to the piles, occasioned by the uterus pressing upon the rectum which prevents the return of blood from that part, together with the constipation to which they are liable. Persons subject to prolapsus ani are more particularly liable to the piles.

In all cases where the internal membrane of the rectum is protruded in voiding feces and prevented from returning by the contraction of the sphinc ani muscle, the blood must necessarily be retained and inflammation ensue. —

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Females, who have borne children, are more subject to the piles than those who have not. Generally, about the time menstruation ceases, women suffer considerably from Hemorrhoidal affections. In all cases where there is pressure upon the pelvic viscera, of course there must be undue determination of blood to that part and consequently dilatation of its vessels, which according to Hooper is the primary cause of Hemorrhoids. Persons of a robust habit, who lead a sedentary life, are frequently troubled with the piles. When once affected with the piles, the patient is liable to subsequent attacks.

When the piles proceed so far as to become systematic, they become intimately connected with the stomach, so that certain affections in the one will produce disorders in the other. Caldwell in his notes to Culter thus expresses himself. "We have never seen a severe case of Hemorrhoidal flux, that was not very obviously connected with the stomach. When of a gouty character it is necessarily so connected." —

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great doubt, have always existed amongst physicians, whether the discharge of blood in the piles proceeds from the Hemorrhoidal arteries or veins, and some suppose that the effects produced upon the system differ according to the source. Ballon states, that it is seldom possible to ascertain from what vessels the discharge takes place, and that the effects produced by a discharge from either are very nearly the same. It is conceded however that when the discharge is very profuse, that it proceeds from the arteries. —

I now come to the treatment of this disease, which must always vary according to its nature and extent. The first object of the physician should be, as in most diseases, to remove the cause which produced it. As coitus is one of the most frequent of the causes which produces this disease, it should be carefully avoided by paying strict attention to diet, which should consist chiefly of vegetables, like fruit, mush and molasses; and in fast any food which is calculated

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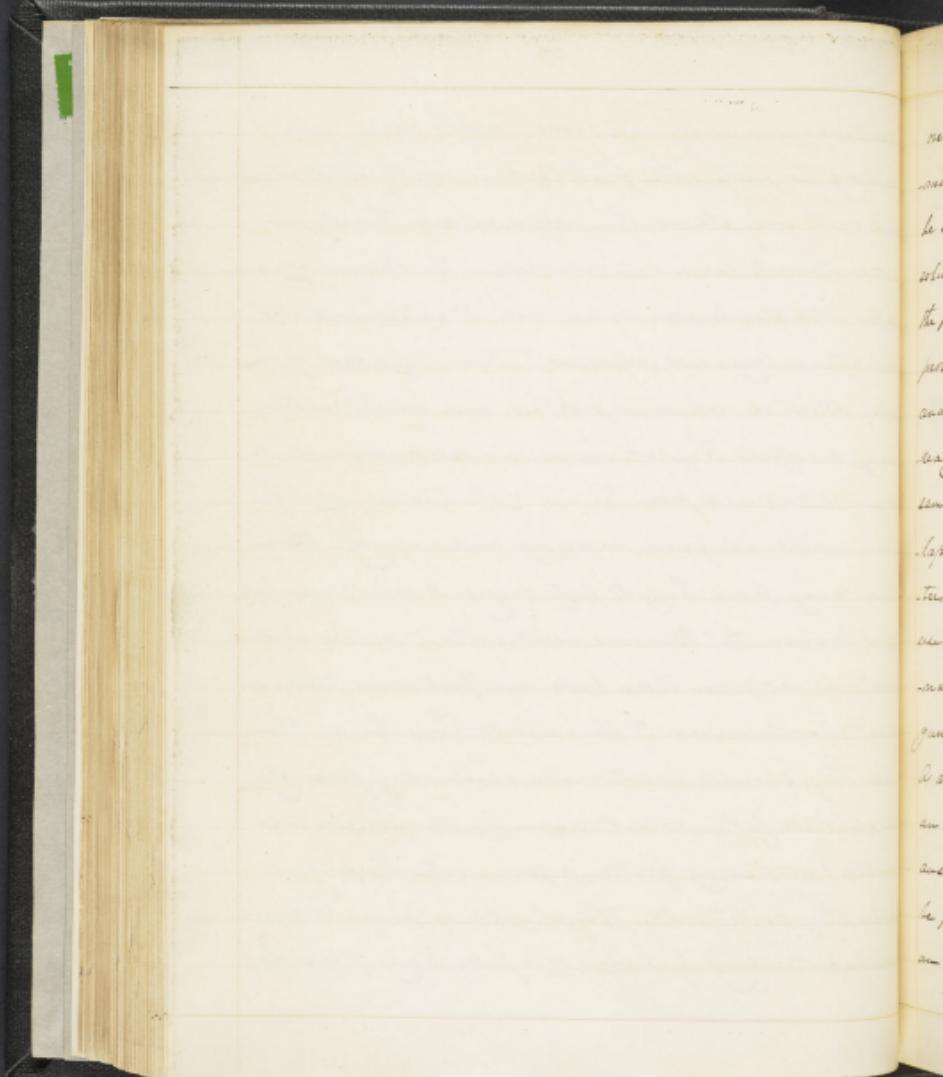
to produce such stools as will pass off without irritating the rectum, may be taken with safety. If this fails the patient should make use of gentle laxatives, such as manna, senna, castor oil, &c. When much inflammation exists perrectives will be found productive of benefit. After the inflammation is somewhat subdued, spirits of turpentine and balsam applied will answer well, and minister well internally. When very great inflammation attends the tumours, leeches should be applied to the surface of the anus and the patient should be confined to the horizontal posture. After they are removed, the application of a soft compress dipped into some astringent solution will be found highly beneficial. Cold astringent injections will often prove serviceable when leeches and other prescriptions have failed. Dr. Blayman states that from analogy we would suppose emetics serviceable, though he has never tried the experiment. After the inflammation is subdued different ointments, such as the sugar of lead, gall, and tan oint-

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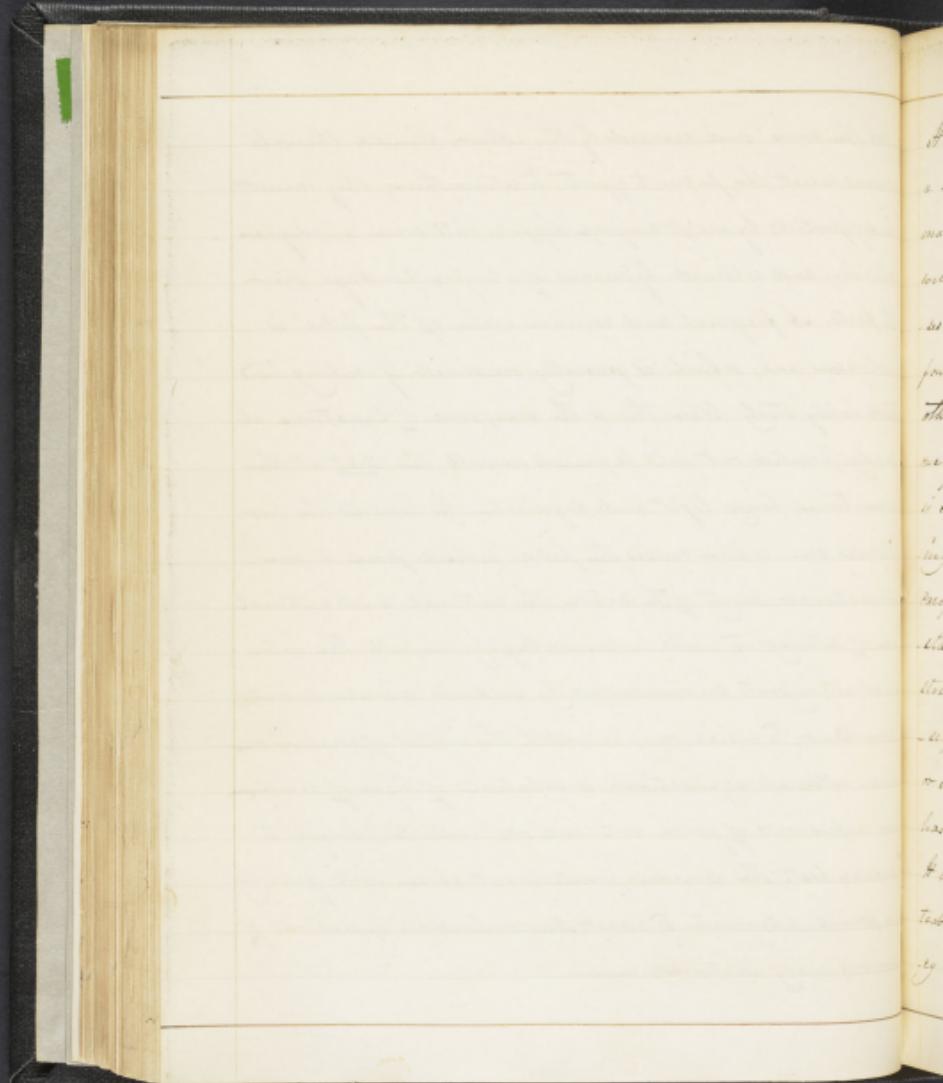
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ments may be used with considerable advantage.
Rubbing the parts with fresh lard is highly esteemed
and with some claims the preference over the differ-
ent ointments recommended above. The steam of warm
water will also be found useful. Dr. W. Lean states
that after a long and judicious treatment of a case of he-
pitis, which occurred in his practice and which resisted
all of his efforts to effect a cure, almost immediate re-
lief was obtained from the use of the tincture of dige-
stalis, which was given morning and evening, the
dose being from thirty to forty drops. It sometimes hap-
pens however that tumours exist without much inflam-
mation, but from their bulk and protrusion, produce
great inconvenience to the patient. When this is the
case they should be cauterized, which may generally
be effected by the patient assuming the horizontal
posture and using gentle pressure with his fingers.
After they are removed, they should be prevented from
again protruding by means of a pad, being placed



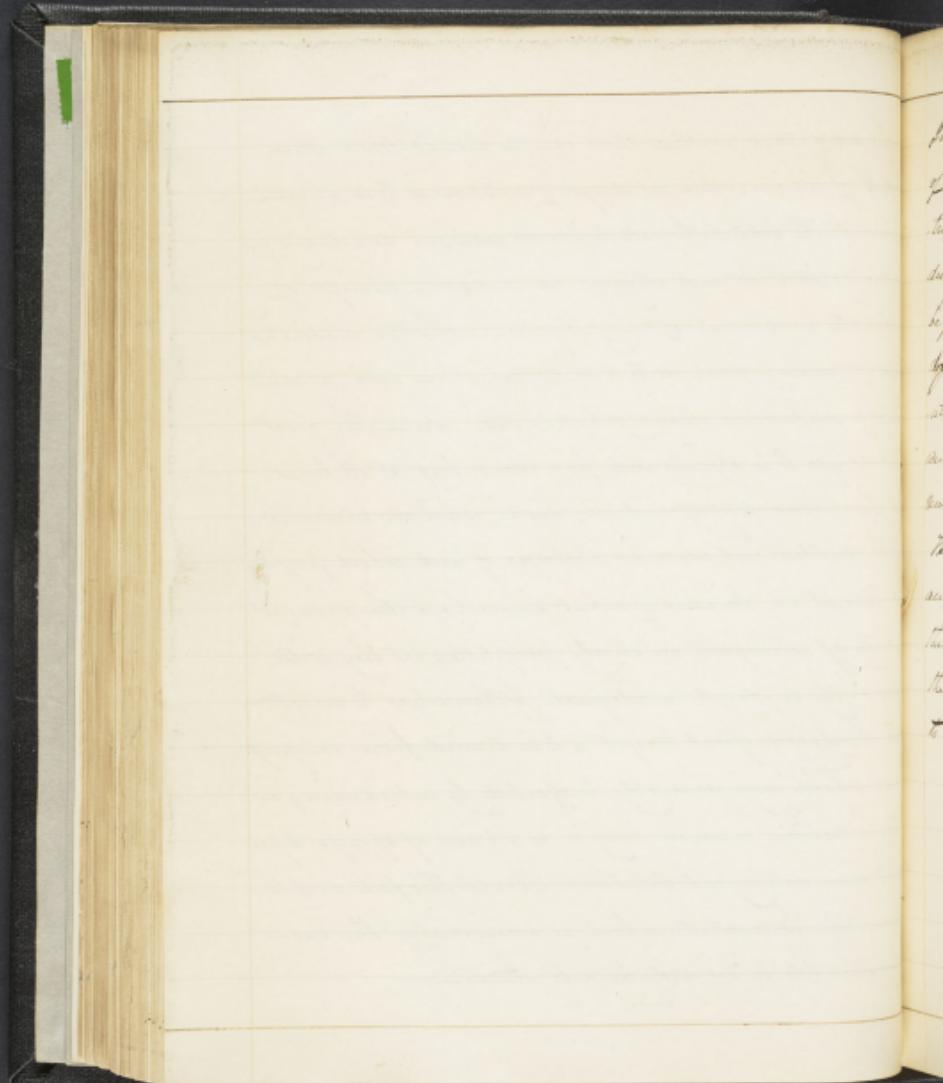
over the anus and secured by the colon. Should these ten-
sions resist the patient's efforts to return them, they must
be supported by a soft sponge dipped into some anodyne
solution and retained by means of a proper bandage over
the parts. A frequent and common cause of the piles is
polyposis ani, which is generally occasioned by eating hard
and bulky stuff. When this is the case, some laxatives al-
ready pointed out will be found useful, the diet at the
same time being light and digestible. If however the no-
lapses ani, which causes the piles, proceeds from a pre-
-ternatural levity of the rectum, the internal and external
use of astringents will be found highly useful. The inter-
nal astringents recommended by Caldwell are alum and
gum Arabic, to which may be added the extract of peruvian
Iquidam. In external applications, a salution of sugar of lead,
an infusion of gall, oat-larts etc will be found to
answer best. The remedies pointed out above will generally
be found adequate to arrest hemorrhoidal affections of
an ordinary nature. —



It happens frequently that the piles from neglect become a systematic affection. When however any impression is made upon the system, the remedies already pointed out will be found no less useful than in the particular case to which they have been applied. They will not be found entirely sufficient however but should be aided by other supports which I shall point out. As follows: one of the principal predisposing causes of the piles and is calculated greatly to increase the discharge, rendering them habitual. The patient should be particularly careful to avoid leading a sedentary life, should abstain from the use of all stimulating liquors, and pay strict attention to his diet. He should exercise him self freely in the open air, either in carriage, on foot or on horseback. The propriety of exercising on horseback has been doubted by some and highly extolled by others. I would appear to a mere observer, who has never tried its virtues by experience, that it would have a tendency to irritate the parts, without, however, to the patient



any advantage further than can be derived from other
kind of caustics, where no danger of irritation is to be apprehen-
sioned. The cold bath will be found useful auxiliary in
stanching bleeding and staying hemorrhage - change of
climate and mode of living, together with the moderate
use of Mercury, pushed to a mild salivation, will be found
highly useful in allaying habitual fits - the great
est danger to be apprehended from hemorrhage at all times
is the extreme debility and even death which are occasioned
by the sudden and enormous discharge of blood which frequent-
ly take place. In cases of violent hemorrhage the manifest
utility of astringents are clearly perceptible; but they will
frequently be found inadequate of themselves to arrest
the discharge. Great benefit is to be derived from coagulants
which may generally be effected by introducing in
-D. Le vertu, a waxen bougie or a piece of sponge dipped
into some astringent solution. Should this fail and the
spurts can be arrested, which is occasionally the case
they should be covered by a ligature -



In conclusion, I will observe, that in the treatment of the piles generally from its inexpensiveness to its most protracted state, the obvious necessity of cold drinks and light diet, is clearly manifested, we can too much attention be paid thereto. When the piles prevail so far as to produce proptosis, headache, and when the skin paler; Due to great debility and weakness together with bad breath and other threatening symptoms, nothing short of a removal of the tumours will be found to answer - The two modes of removing them are with the knife and ligature; but as I did not intend entering upon the surgical treatment of this disease, I can dispense the subject, claiming that indulgence which is due to inexperience of ~~the~~ this

